

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 SCS-03

SCA-01 FMC-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

USIE-00 SSO-00 /033 W

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O 051425Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6518

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 7849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, EPRS, EWWT, (US FLAG SHIP LASH ATLANTICO)

SUBJ: DETENTION OF LASH ATLANTICO

REF: (A) JIDDA 7749, (B) STATE 295161

1. EMBASSY'S SENIOR CONSULAR OFFICER MET WITH JIDDA SEAPORT DIRECTOR, MR FOUAD MUKHTAR TODAY AT WHICH TIME ALSO AN OFFICIAL EMBASSY COMMUNICATION WAS HANDED TO HIM EMBODYING THE ACTION REQUESTED IN PARA 4 REFTEL B. MR MUKHTAR WAS CORDIAL, RECEPTIVE AND REASONABLE. HE ALLOWED EXAMINATION OF CASE MATERIAL AND PORT DIRECTIVES CONCERNING THE LASH ATLANTICO INCIDENT. THE MATERIALS REFLECTED INITIATIVE, UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES IN RESOLVING MATTER OF LASH ATLANTICO COLLISION AND DETENTION. MR MUKHTAR EXPLAINED THAT PORT HAD FULL AUTHORITY IN MATTER AS INCIDENT OCCURRED WITHIN ANCHORAGE AREA. HE SHOWED A PORT DIRECTIVE ADDRESSED TO PRUDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES STATING THAT SAG POSED NO BARRIER TO ATLANTICO'S DEPARTURE IF PRUDENTIAL WOULD POST A FINANCIAL GUARANTEE TO PAY FOR SALVAGE, WRECK REMOVAL ETC. OF THE M/V ANATOLI AS WRECK COULD AFFECT NORMAL PORT COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS.

2. DURING MEETING AGENT MCCALL, PAUL ZIMMERMAN, REPRESENTATIVES OF A SALVAGE COMPANY AND THE PORT COUNSELLOR CAME TO JOIN DISCUSSIONS BY PERMISSION AND INVITATION OF MR MUKHTAR AND EMBASSY OFFICER.

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3. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION AND WITH THE AID OF TECHNICAL

ADVISERS AND INFORMATION A FIGURE OF 1.25 MILLION DOLLARS WAS CITED AS THE AMOUNT OF GUARANTEE THAT PRUDENTIAL AND CENTRAL GULF WOULD NEED TO PUT UP AS GUARANTEE WITH THE PORT AUTHORITY AFTER WHICH ACCORDING TO MR MUKHTAR ATALANTICO COULD DEPART IMMEDIATELY. A SPECIFIC GUARANTEE AMOUNT HAD NOT BEEN CITED PREVIOUSLY AND REPRESENTED A LIBERALIZATION OVER THE EARLIER PORT REQUEST FOR AN OPEN GUARANTEE WHICH ATLANTICO'S OWNERS HAD REJECTED COMPLETELY.

4. JIDDA KANOO AND PRUDENTIAL AGENT MCCALL ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF TELEXING CENTRAL GULF LINES EXPLAINING THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, AND REQUESTING ACTION OR ADVICE.

5. SHOULD ATLANTICO'S INTERESTED PARTIES ACTUALLY MEET FINANCIAL GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS BY DEPOSITING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED, EMBASSY, AN ASSURANCE OF PORT DIRECTOR, DOES NOT FORESEE FURTHER PROBLEM OF DETENTION OF ATLANTICO. HOWEVER, SHOULD THERE REMAIN DISAGREEMENT OVER GUARANTEE AND VESSEL STILL IS DETAINED, ASIDE FROM REFERRING OWNERS TO LEGAL SOURCES, EMBASSY REQUESTS ADVICE ON EXTENT AND SCOPE OF FURTHER ACTIONS DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH IT TO TAKE IN MATTER.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, SHIP ACCIDENTS, LASH ATLANTICO MS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA07849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760449-1194
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761271/aaaacjab.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JIDDA 7749, 76 STATE 295161
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION OF LASH ATLANTICO
TAGS: CGEN, EWWT, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006